

King County Auditor's Office

Kymber Waltnunson, King County Auditor



King County

DATE: January 14, 2016

TO: Metropolitan King County Councilmembers

FROM: Kymber Waltnunson, King County Auditor

SUBJECT: Follow-up on 2011 Audit of King County Sheriff's Office

The King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) has made minimal progress in addressing the three remaining recommendations from our 2011 audit. These recommendations all relate to the need to set standards for how police services are to be delivered and then to design operations and develop staffing plans to meet those standards.

Given the lack of progress over the past five years, the Auditor's Office will no longer continue to monitor the implementation of these recommendations. However, the auditor will continue to consider whether this topic merits revisiting in a future audit of the Sheriff's Office.

Of the three remaining audit recommendations:

DONE	0	Recommendations have been fully implemented Auditor will no longer monitor
PROGRESS	0	Recommendations are in progress or partially implemented Auditor will continue to monitor
OPEN	3	Recommendations remain unresolved Auditor will no longer continue to monitor

Please see below for details on the implementation status of these recommendations.

Implementation Status as of January 2016

#	Quick Status	Recommendation	Status Detail
1	OPEN	The KCSO should continue its efforts to develop a systematic patrol staffing plan that is tied to workload, operational, and performance goals, including those for community- and problem-oriented policing, and flexible to address changing department needs and priorities.	KCSO does not have a systematic patrol staffing plan tied to workload, operational goals, and performance goals. KCSO had been planning to hire a consultant in early 2015 to review its staffing needs, and ultimately decided against it. KCSO states that devoting resources to develop a systematic patrol staffing plan would be futile, due to the lack of resources necessary to implement such a plan.
3	OPEN	The KCSO should develop a plan that explains its patrol operations goals, activities, measures of success, and workload; and should establish a monitoring system for its community- and problem-oriented policing activities.	KCSO does not have a documented plan that explains the goals, activities, measure of success, or workload for its patrol operations. KCSO has a system for tracking community- and problem-oriented policing activities. While this system is useful for sharing information about progress throughout the precinct, KCSO states it currently lacks the resources to further analyze or systematically monitor these activities.
4	OPEN	The Criminal Investigations Division (CID) should develop a more systematic case management system and strengthen its approach to monitoring workload for detectives.	CID sergeants monitor the workloads of detectives using a computer system that tracks the status of cases. Best practices recommend a system that assesses the amount of time different types of cases require, even though the variation in cases makes this difficult. The computer system treats all cases equally, and CID relies on the judgment of each sergeant to weigh how significant, time critical, and labor intensive each case is.

Chelsea Lei, Management Auditor, and Peter Heineccius, Senior Management Auditor, conducted this review. Kymber Waltnunson, King County Auditor, was the project supervisor. Please contact Peter at 206-477-0077 if you have any questions about the issues discussed in this letter.

cc: Dow Constantine, King County Executive
Fred Jarrett, Deputy County Executive
Rhonda Berry, Assistant Deputy County Executive
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy & Budget
Ken Guy, Director, Department of Executive Services (DES), Finance & Business
Operations Division (FBOD)
Eunjoo Greenhouse, Deputy Division Director, DES, FBOD
John Urquhart, King County Sheriff
Jim Pugel, Chief Deputy, King County Sheriff's Office
Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council
Shelley Harrison, Administrative Staff Assistant, King County Executive Office